

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are presently pending in the application. Claim 22 has been added. No claims have been cancelled or amended. Upon entry of this amendment claims 1-22 will be pending in the application.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION OR ELECTION REQUIREMENT

The April 20, 2001 Office Communication stated the application contained patentably distinct species of the claimed invention and imposed an election requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 to a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Communication states that claim 1 (a method of inhibiting transport of anandamide comprising the administration of compound X-Y-Z) is generic.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above election requirement on grounds that the generic claims include sufficiently few species that a search and examination of all the species at one time would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the above Election Requirement and examine all of claims 1-22.

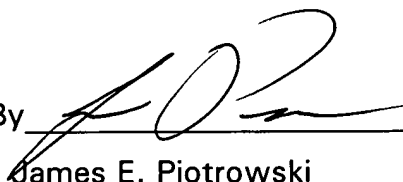
In order to strictly comply with the Election Requirement Applicants' provisionally elect, with traverse, a species wherein X is a hydrophobic aliphatic hydrocarbon chain containing 19 carbon atoms and having 4 nonconjugated cis double bonds in the middle portion of the chain and Y is an amide radical. Under this provisional election, claim 1 is generic and claim 21 reads on the provisionally elected species. Claims 2,3 and 5-9, although broader than the elected species, also read on the provisionally elected species. Claim 12, while directed to another aspect of the invention, is also generic and claim 22 reads on the provisionally elected species. Claims 13,14 and 16-20, although broader than the provisionally elected species, also read on the provisionally elected species.

Applicants' believe the above response is fully responsive to the Election Requirement imposed in the April 20, 2001 Office Communication. In the event that

the Examiner should assert that a further election of a single Z species is required, Applicants respectfully traverse such an assertion for the reasons given above and respectfully urge the Examiner to reconsider such Election Requirement and withdraw the same. Should the Examiner maintain that a single Z species is required Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the species wherein Z is a hydroxy substituted aryl radical. Under this provisional election claim 1 is generic. Claims 2,3,5-7 and 21, although broader than the provisional elected species, also read on the provisionally elected species. Claim 12, while directed to another aspect of the invention, is also generic and claim 22 reads on the provisionally elected species. Claims 13,14 and 16-20, although broader than the provisionally elected species, also read on the provisionally elected species.

Respectfully submitted,
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